West Valley Mothers
for
Retinoblastoma Awareness
c/o RocketdyneWatch, LLC

February 9, 2007

Mr. Rick Brausch
Assistant Secretary for External Affairs
Department of Toxic Substances Control
Headquarters – 1001 I Street
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806

Dear Mr. Brausch:

We are members of the West Valley Mothers for Retinoblastoma Awareness. Our group consists of mothers of children with a rare cancer-retinoblastoma. We banded together after discovering a phenomenally high spike in the incidence of retinoblastoma which exists, within a few miles of the Santa Susanna Field Laboratory (SSFL).

We are contacting you as you have been identified as the liaison between the public and the Department of Toxic Substances Control; regarding the Santa Susana Field Laboratory, its investigation and cleanup, and DTSC's transparency and communications with the public. We perceive this relationship full of animosity.

It is with disbelief that we read the following excerpt from your recent letter (attached) dated December 2006, addressed to the public regarding our numerous concerns raised at the highly unsatisfactory meeting about the SSFL's Area I Burn Pit (August 2006):

> "Epidemiology is not an area in which we have specific expertise, however, our toxicologist has researched the scientific literature regarding this condition and found there is no known environmental cause for retinoblastoma."

Mr. Brausch, the most cursory review of scientific literature would have disclosed the following fact: Radiation has been identified as one of the environmental cause of retinoblastoma, as reported by Dr. Thomas Mack in his book, *Cancers in the Urban Environment.* Additionally, the epidemiological studies regarding the Sellafield nuclear site in the United Kingdom, report of the incidence of retinoblastoma.

The following URL will link you to a Google Search showing hundreds of thousands of entries discussing environmental causes of retinoblastoma:

http://www.google.com/search?hl=en&q=retinoblastoma+environmental&btnG=Google+Search

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This is absurd.

It is astonishing that your Agency, in one sentence, both admits its lack of expertise in this critical area, yet postulates such an harmful conclusion and sets it out as fact.

This unfounded "opinion" has now gone down into the historical and public record on the SSFL contamination case.

We feel that these statements should be struck from the public record and disregarded in the future. Additionally, the socially responsible thing to do would be to issue an apology-and let the public know your agency should not comment on the matters of toxicology or epidemiology.

We look forward to your agency's prompt response.

Sincerely,

West Valley Mothers for Retinoblastoma Awareness
c/o RocketdyneWatch, LLC
14320 Ventura Blvd. #270
Sherman Oaks, CA 91423

CC:

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Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator
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Elton Gallegly, U.S. House of Representatives
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